

# COFFEY COUNTY FSA AG REPORT



**Coffey County FSA**  
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Burlington, KS 66839  
Phone: (620) 364-2313  
  
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**Hours**  
8:00 A.M.-  
4:30 P.M.  
Monday -  
  
Friday

**Office Staff**  
Kim Specht  
Vicki Fry  
Vickie Wolford  
Megan Wilson  
Doug Peine, CED

**County Committee**  
Warren Graham, Chairperson  
Wallace Birk, Vice Chairperson  
Daryl Knight, Member  
Bonnie Davies, COC Advisor

The committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

JULY 2006 NEWSLETTER

## NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR COC ELECTION

Don't forget about the 2006 County Committee (COC) election. We are currently taking nominations for the election that will be held in November for Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 2. This area covers the southwest portion of the County. The east – west line begins at Oxen Rd. and goes west to the County line or Angus Rd. The north – south line of the area begins at 16<sup>th</sup> Rd. and goes south to the County line or 1<sup>st</sup> Rd. Wallace Birk currently holds this position. The deadline to return nomination forms to our office is **August 1, 2006**.

The county committee gives local producers a say in how federal farm programs are implemented in the county. The committee oversees the work of the county executive director, acts in an advisory capacity to the farm loan manager and is accountable to the state committee.

Producers who are eligible to vote in the county committee election may nominate candidates. Nominees must also be eligible voters and must agree to serve on the committee, if elected.

Eligible voters must be of legal voting age and have an interest in farmland as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or be eligible to participate in agency programs. The spouse of eligible voter may also vote and serve on the committee, if nominated and elected.

Nomination forms are available in our office and must be returned by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. Only one nominee may be named on each form. Eligible voters may circulate and sign nomination forms for as many candidates as they choose.

In a change from previous elections, there is no required minimum number of nominees for the election. In the past, if fewer than four candidates were nominated by producers, the county committee was required to nominate additional candidates. Under the new rule, if no nominations are received, the county committee will nominate at least three candidates to complete the slate.

If the county committee determines that socially disadvantaged groups—female and minority farmers—are not adequately represented, it will add nominees who can fairly represent the interests of these groups.

Once again we highly encourage everyone in LAA # 2 to not only participate in the election process, but also consider being included on this year's ballot. All nominations must be in our office by close of business **August 1, 2006**.

## 2006 CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Please remember that acreage reporting is required in order for you to be eligible for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program, CRP, as well as for loans and LDP's. The final date to report corn, milo, soybeans, grass, and CRP is **August 1, 2006**. Farm Operators should receive an appointment card identifying a time and date for you to report. If you are unable to attend during the specified time, it will be your responsibility to reschedule a time prior to **August 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please remember that planting dates will need to be loaded into the computer, so bring the necessary information in order to provide these dates during your appointment.

## INFORMATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED

We have scheduled an informational meeting on **JULY 26, 2006**. The focus of the meeting will be to provide information concerning the importance of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee, its role, and information concerning the election process that is conducted annually. Although this is the main topic, we will discuss other program topics as requested by the participants. The meeting will be held in the conference room in our office. It will begin at **9:30 AM** and will conclude after the presentation is complete and all questions are answered. Mark your calendar and plan to be in town on **JULY 26<sup>th</sup>**.

## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Are you running out of places on your farm to store grain? Then you might think about looking into FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan program. Under the program, eligible producers can borrow up to 85 percent of their net costs (up to \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note) for storage and handling equipment.

Loans may be made for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. The maximum term of the loan is 7 years, and current loan rate is 5.0 percent. Please contact our office for more information about facility loans.

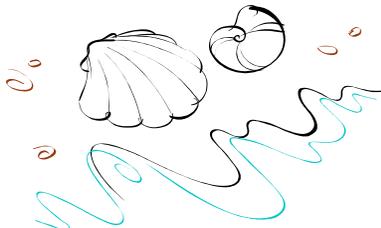
## LDP REMINDERS

Last August, the Farm Service Agency announced the launch of the CCC-633 EZ to replace the old CCC-709 and CCC-633-LDP forms. Since then, it's undergone a few modifications to make it even more user-friendly.

The EZ form is a two-part loan deficiency request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP payment at any time during the loan/LDP availability period. This may be done before or after losing beneficial interest.

By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form. Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request for payment by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest.

A key point to remember is that page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained. We attempted to get this during the 2006 DCP sign-up process. Please ensure this has been completed prior to the onset of fall harvest.



### Non-Discrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## CRP REMINDERS

We have received the results of the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Sign-up. Those of you who received notification of an accepted offer need to ensure all documents and signatures are submitted to our office by **August 15, 2006**. If you receive a letter concerning this, please review it in detail and complete the necessary actions in a timely fashion. Failure to meet the applicable time frame will result in a terminated offer.

We have completed the CRP "REX" compliance reviews and made the necessary referrals. A common finding was the presence of noxious weeds or invasive trees. All CRP acres that contain a noxious weed such as sericea lespedeza have been referred to the County Noxious Weed Department to determine compliance with the Kansas State noxious weed laws. Once a determination is made you will be notified of the results. In the mean time, we encourage you to ensure you take necessary control measures. Please review the letter you receive from our office. Many contracts contain invasive trees, but are not considered a compliance problem at this point in time. You are expected to remove **ALL** trees if your initial contract was a grass planting. Failure to take actions as instructed in your letter may result in a noncompliance situation which will make your contract subject to termination.

Last call on CP-33 field borders to enhance upland birds such as the bobwhite quail. Kansas is down to around 3,000 acres of the 27,500 acre allocation. If you are interested in this practice, **NOW** is the time to contact NRCS to set up a time to determine the eligible acres. Please remember no growing crops can be present on the acreage once the contract becomes effective. The effective dates of CRP contracts can be deferred up to six months from the approval date.

Please remember to report all changes that may affect the way the annual CRP payment will be issued this fall. Changes to your CRP contract may result from the sale of land, deaths, change of operators, etc.

Please contact our office for more information or questions pertaining to the CRP reminders noted above.

